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Alberta Finance
Economic Bulletin

Economic Statistics Released During the Week of May 24, 2004 to May 28, 2004

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month (m/m)	Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y)	Comments
Industrial Product Price Index (1997=100)	April			The Industrial Product Price Index (IPPI) rose 0.8% in April, the fifth consecutive monthly increase. All industrial products reported price increases, with the largest gains reported in lumber and other wood products (+2.3%), pulp and paper products (+1.7%) and primary metal products (+1.7%). On an annual basis, the IPPI was up 1.5% in April. Excluding the effects of the strong Canadian dollar, prices would have risen 3.6% over the same period last year.
	108.8	0.8%	1.5%	
Raw Materials Price Index (1997=100)	April			In April, the raw material prices index (RMPI) fell 0.2%. Gains in vegetable products (+2.3%) and mineral fuels (+0.3%) were offset by losses in ferrous materials (-6.0%), animals and animal products (-1.2%) and non-ferrous metals (-0.3%). On an annual basis, raw materials prices were up 8.4%, largely due to a 12.1% gain in mineral fuels. Excluding mineral fuels, the RMPI would have increased 5.5% over the same period last year.
	125.9	-0.2%	8.4%	
Wholesale Trade ($ Millions)	March			Canadian wholesale trade rebounded in March, increasing 4.6%, the second largest monthly increase in the past ten years. Nine of the eleven trade groups posted increases, with the largest coming from motor vehicles, parts and accessories (+10.7%) and lumber and building materials (+8.3%). All provinces except Manitoba (-0.5%) posted gains in March, with Alberta wholesale trade rising 2.2%.
Alberta	4,120	2.2%	9.6 %	
Canada	37,586	4.6%	3.9 %	
Retail sales ($ Millions)	March			In March, Canadian retail sales climbed 1.2% to a record $27.4 billion. The highest gains were posted in drug and patent medicine stores (+2.3%), furniture (+1.7%) and clothing (+1.6%). The only industry to report a loss was general merchandise stores (-0.8%). All provinces except Newfoundland (-3.2%) and Manitoba (-0.7%) reported increases in March, with Alberta posting a gain of 0.3%.
Alberta	3,476	0.3%	7.8%	
Canada	27,445	1.2%	4.1%	

Economics & Public Finance
For further information, call: Filip Ksiazkiewicz 427-7391 Richard Purnell 427-7504